

# Foreign influences in Bernese Swiss German

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# Introduction

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- > What research says about Standard German:
  - Dunger (1899) and Stiven (1936): English influences into German since 1400
  - Onysko (2007) Welt/Spiegel: Around 1,2% of all printed words are borrowed from English
  - Eisenberg (2011): German borrows words from English on a regular basis since 17. cent.
  - Fiedler (2014): Research on Anglicisms since 1945 (Press, Commercials usw.)

# Introduction

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- > What research says about Swiss German:
  - Dalcher (1966): Responsible for research on Anglicisms in Switzerland, starting in 1948 until 2008
  - Collection of Anglicisms in 1964/65
  - \*\*Dalcher's private library\*\*

# Introduction

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- > Two projects
  - *STRUT* vowel project
    - Phonetic/sociolinguistic approach
  - Diphthong /ei/ project
    - Variationist linguistic approach
  - No historical material to compare
  - Work in progress

# Introduction – Research area



## Verwaltungskreis Bern-Mittelland

### Kanton Bern



### SCHWEIZ

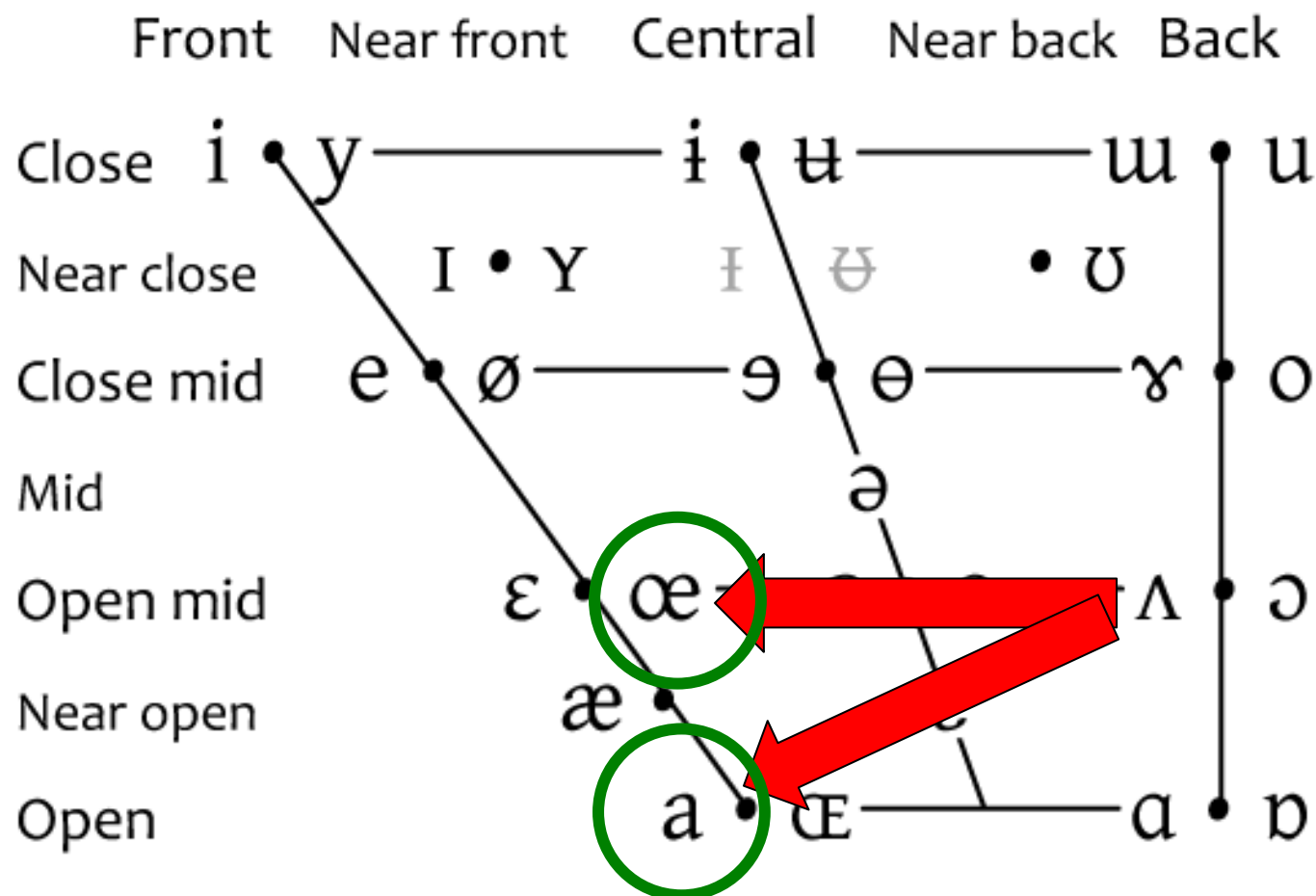


# STRUT Vowel project

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- > Research question: The vowel inventory of Bernese Swiss German has no STRUT vowel /ʌ/. In borrowed words /ʌ/ is replaced by /a/ or /oe/. Which vowel is chosen by whom?
- > Hypothesis:
  - The better the borrowed elements are integrated into the Bernese Swiss German lexicon, the more often /oe/ is chosen to replace the STRUT vowel /ʌ/

# STRUT Vowel project





# STRUT Vowel project

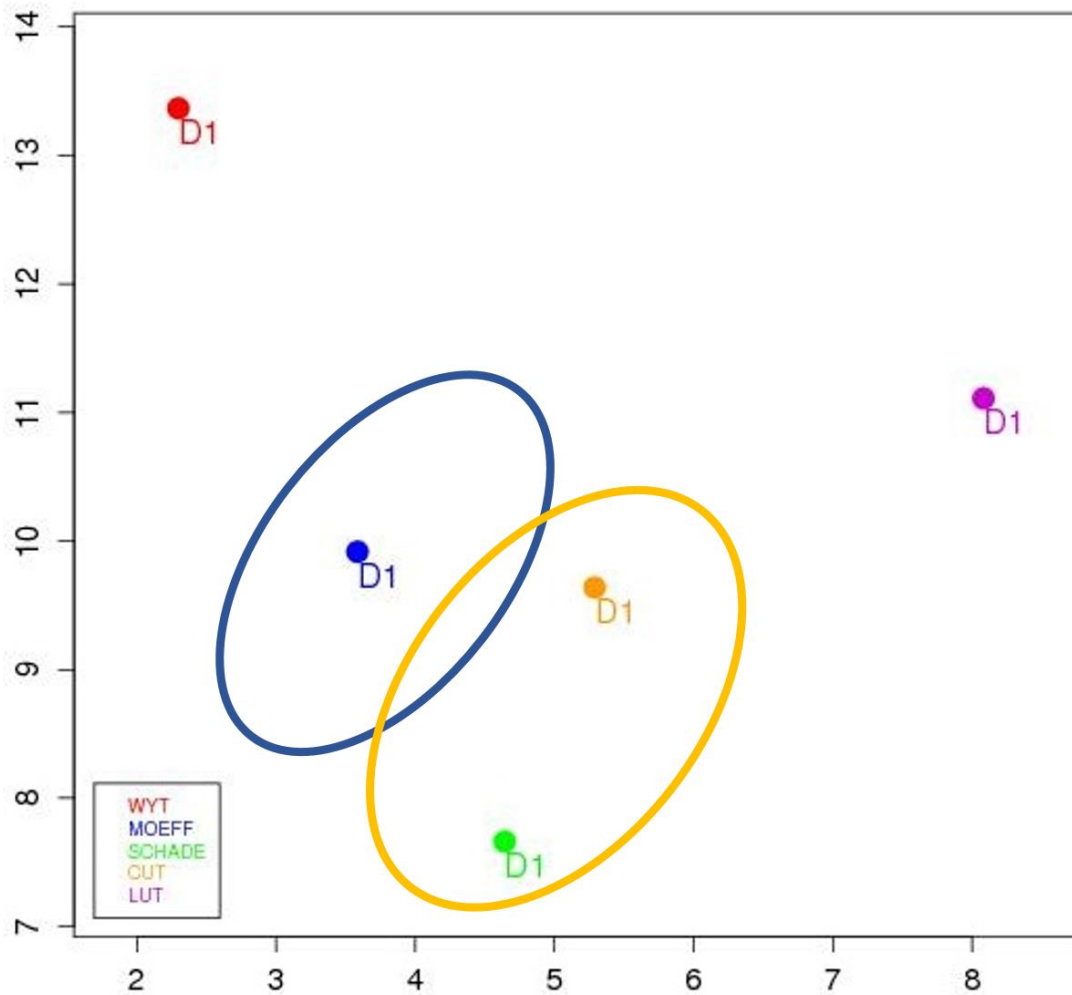
## > Data collection:

- One age groupe (20-40), male and female equally balanced, name-a-picture task

## > Analysis:

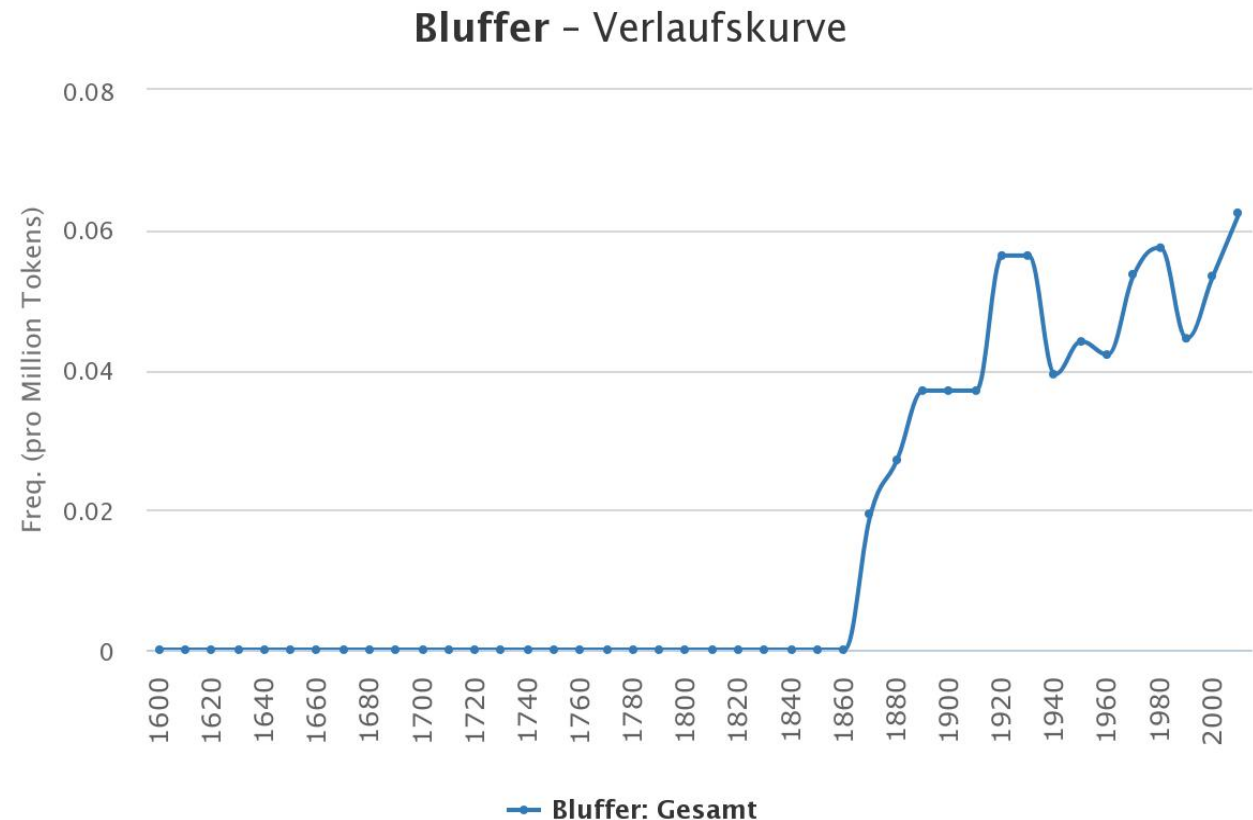
- Formants measured and plotted
- Degree of integration according to Eisenberg (2011) :
  1. Late 19. or early 20. cent., integration completed (Bluffer) [p<sup>h</sup>œf:ər]
  2. Mid 20. cent., partially integrated (Pub) [p<sup>h</sup>œp or p<sup>h</sup>ap]
  3. Late 20. cent., not (yet) integrated (Update) [ʔapdɛɪf]

# STRUT Vowel project



# STRUT Vowel project

- > Bluffer in  
Standard  
German  
  
In use since late  
19. cent.

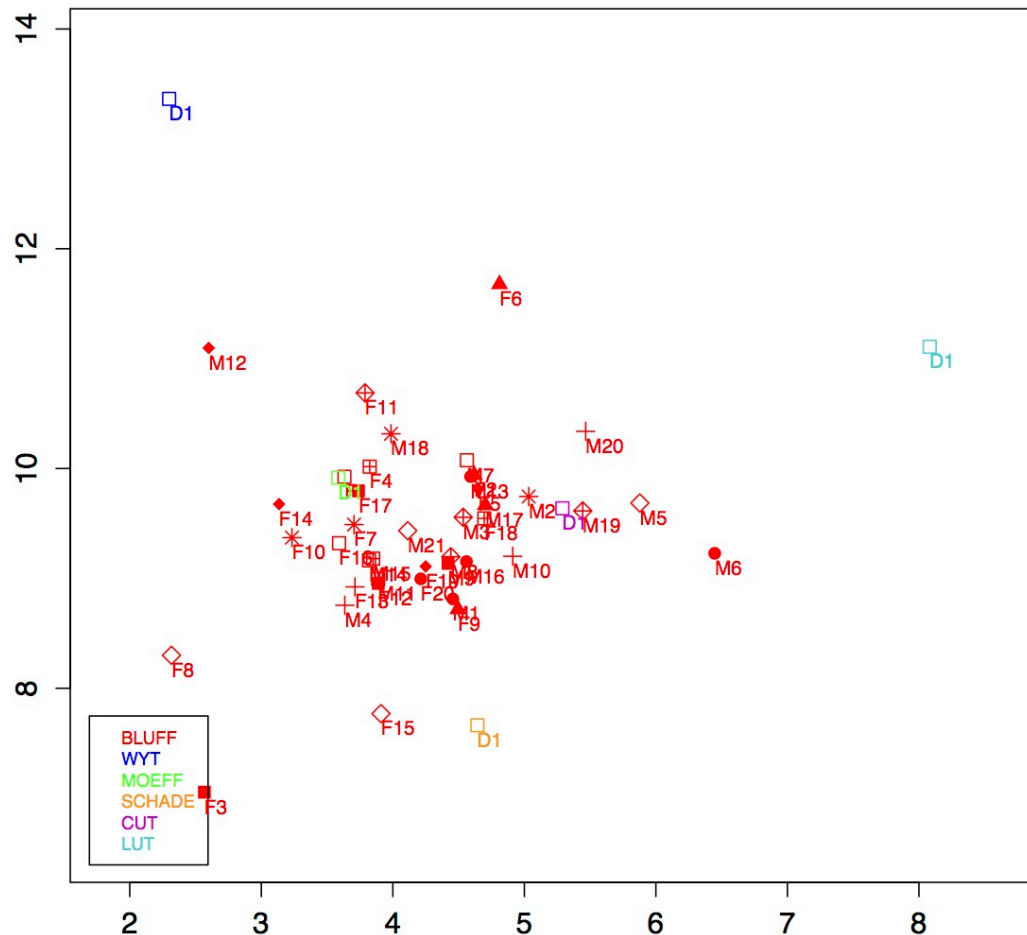


# STRUT Vowel project

## > Results: Bluffer

In Bernese Swiss German  
almost only pronounced as

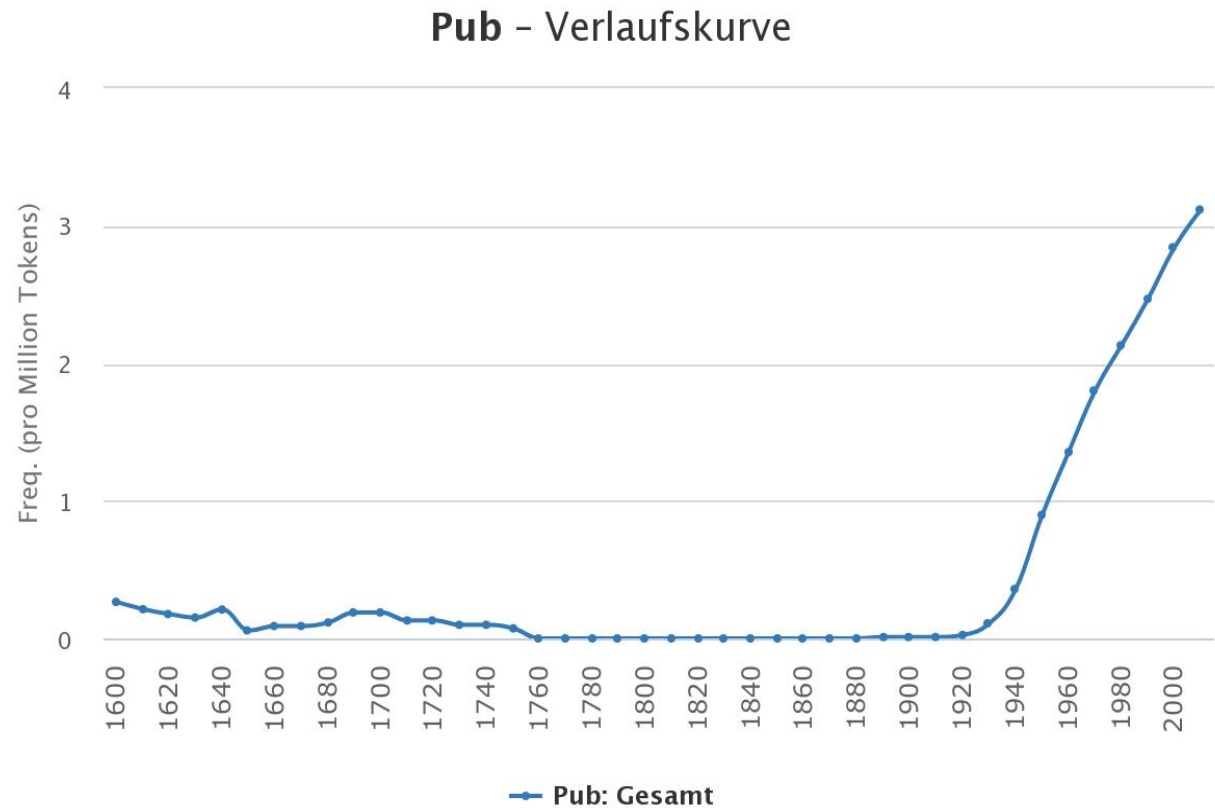
*/plœf:ər/*



# STRUT Vowel project

## > Pub in Standard German

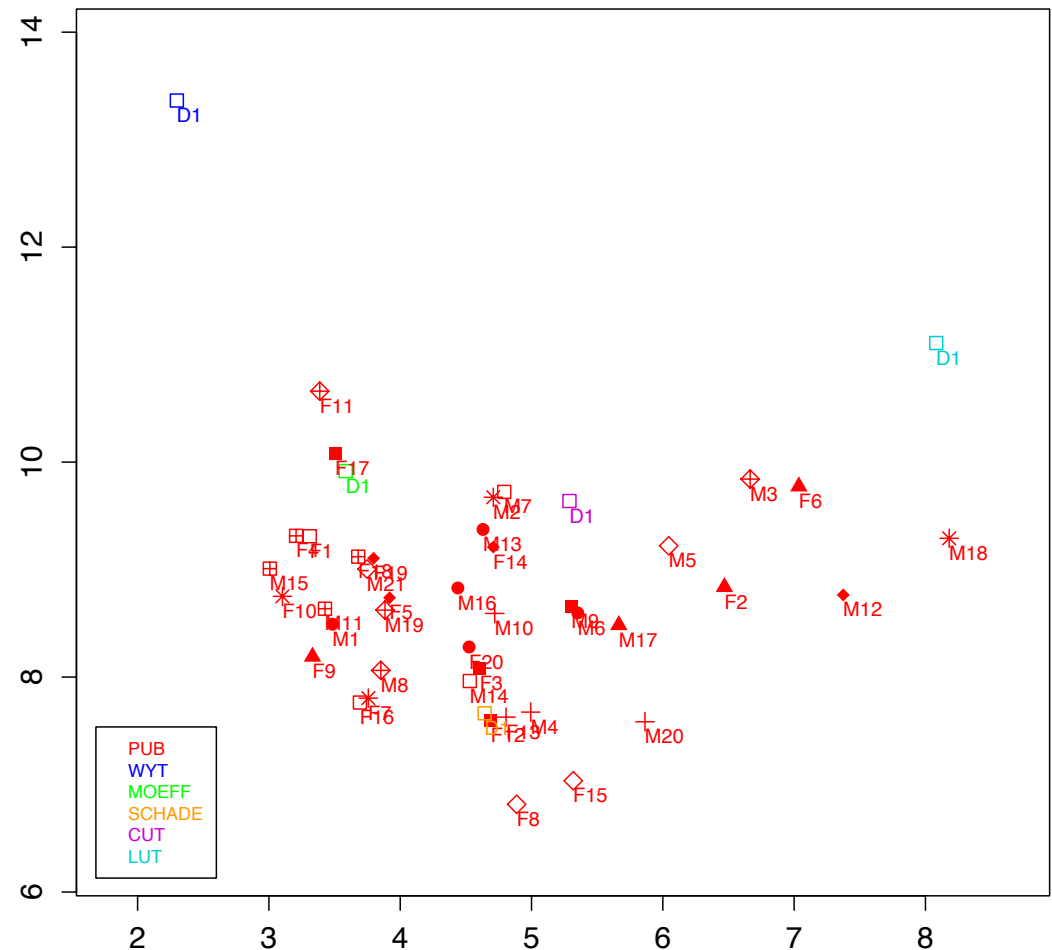
Use increases in the  
middle of the 20. cent.



# STRUT Vowel project

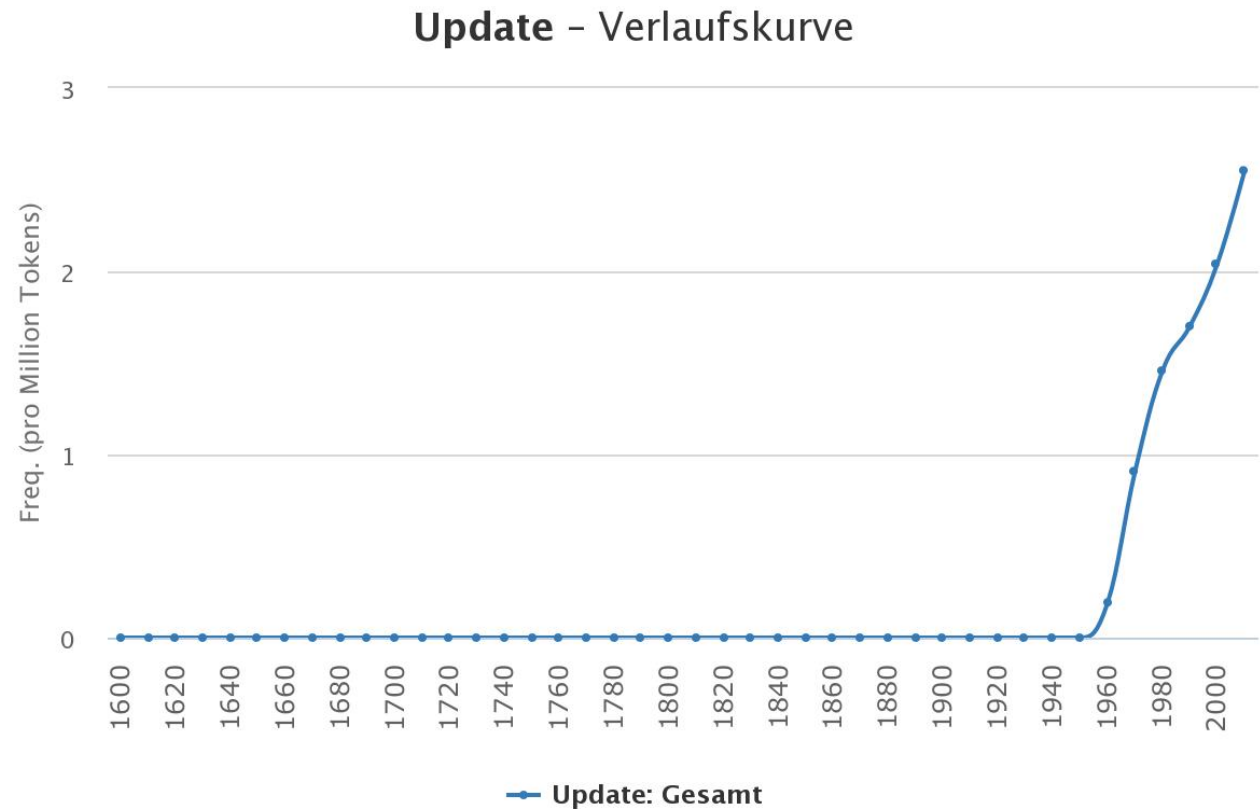
## > Results: Pub

In Bernese Swiss German  
*/p<sup>h</sup>ab/* and */p<sup>h</sup>œb/* are used,  
variable is socially marked  
(educated vs. uneducated)



# STRUT Vowel project

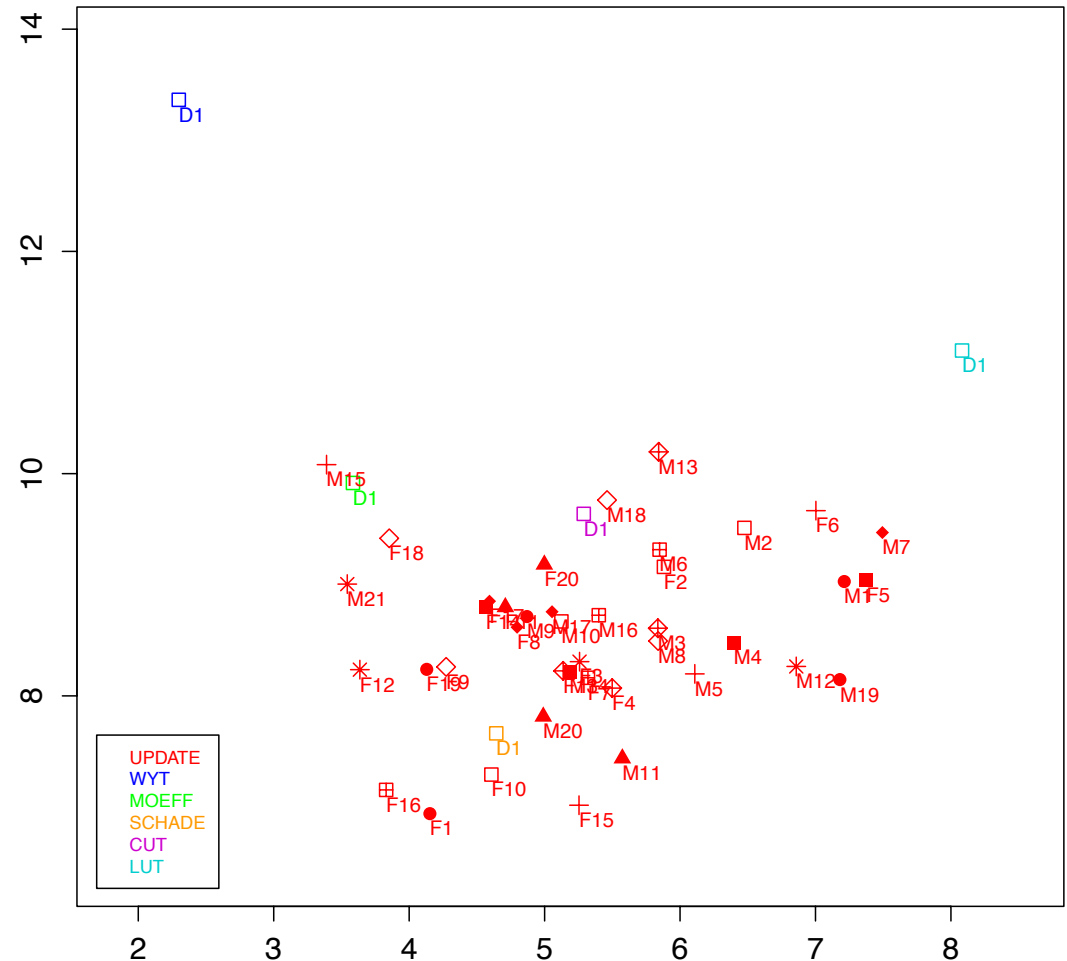
- > Update in  
Standard  
German  
Use increases  
around 1960



# STRUT Vowel project

> Resultate: Update

In Bernese Swiss German  
pronounced as */ʔapdɛɪt/*





# STRUT Vowel project

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- > Discussion
  - Integration according to Eisenberg make sense
- > Problems
  - Integration not tested with other variables
  - Reference formants are not very precisely measured
  - Not much social data collected

# *Diphthong /ei/ project*

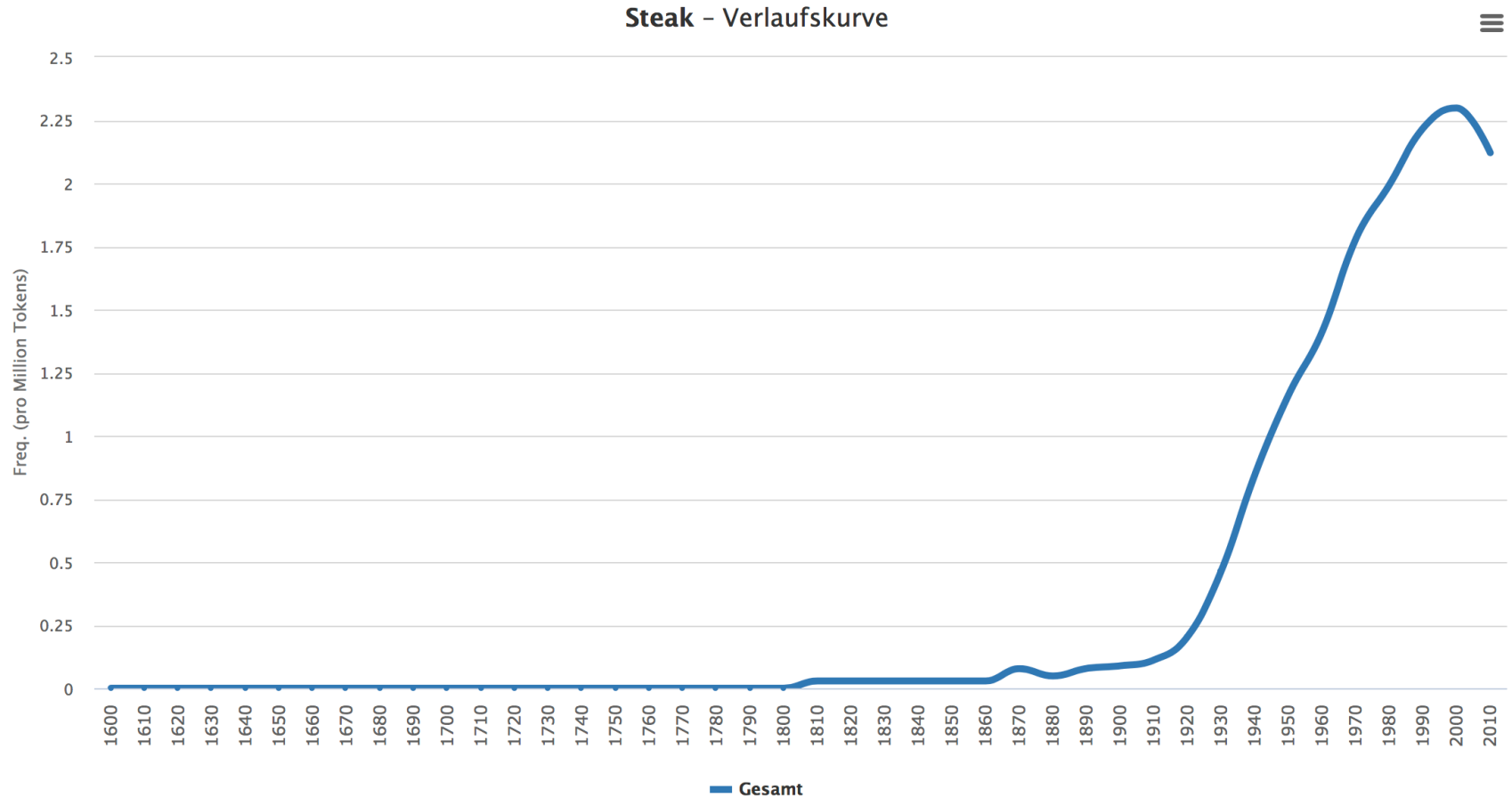


# Diphthong /ei/ project

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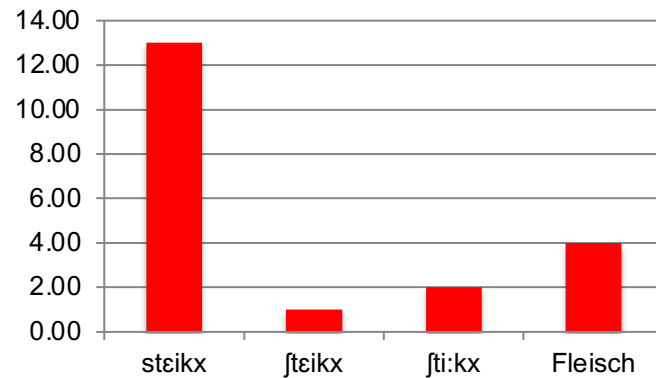
- > Research question: In Bernese Swiss German, *steak* is pronounced as *stɛɪk(x)*, *ftɛik(x)* oder *fti:kx* and many more. Who uses which variant and why?
- > Hypotheses:
  1. *fti:kx* is the result of a monophthongisation, which happened during the integration to Bernese Swiss German
  2. Level of English is an important fact when it comes to the pronunciation of *steak*
  3. *ftɛik(x)* is the result of a combination of integration and a certain level of English

# Diphthong /ei/ project

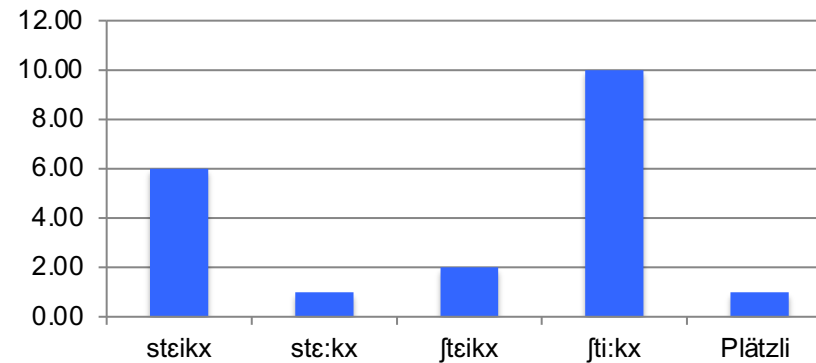


# Diphthong /ei/ project

**young**

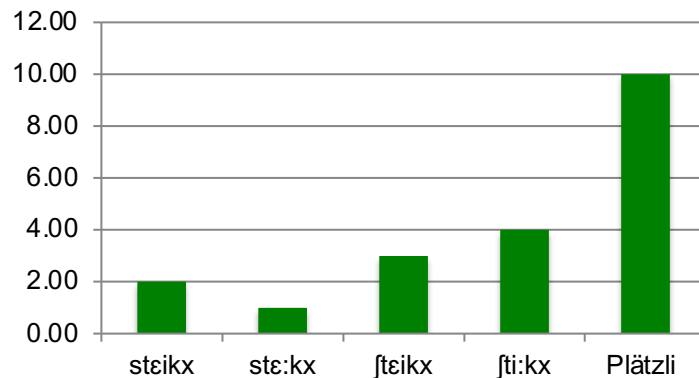


**middle**

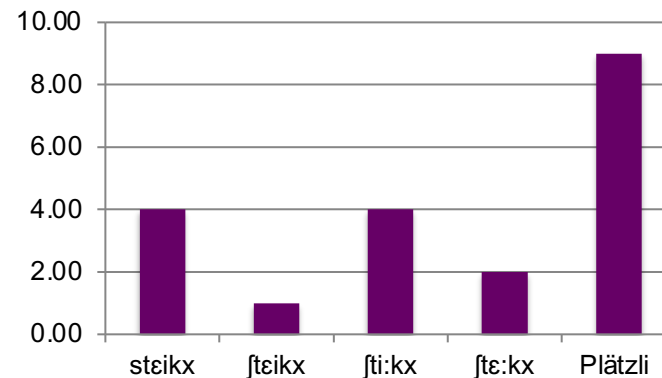


n = 20 per  
age group

**old**



**farmers**



# Diphthong /ei/ project

- > Results (Level of English)
  - Level of English has an effect
    - Youngest speakers
      - Since 2004 English is compulsory at Swiss Schools
      - Level of English already before, use of Media
    - Middle speakers
      - Learned some English and try to keep up
      - Sometimes uncertain
    - Oldest speakers and farmers
      - Only little knowledge of English
      - *Steak* not very often, but old variant *Plätzli*

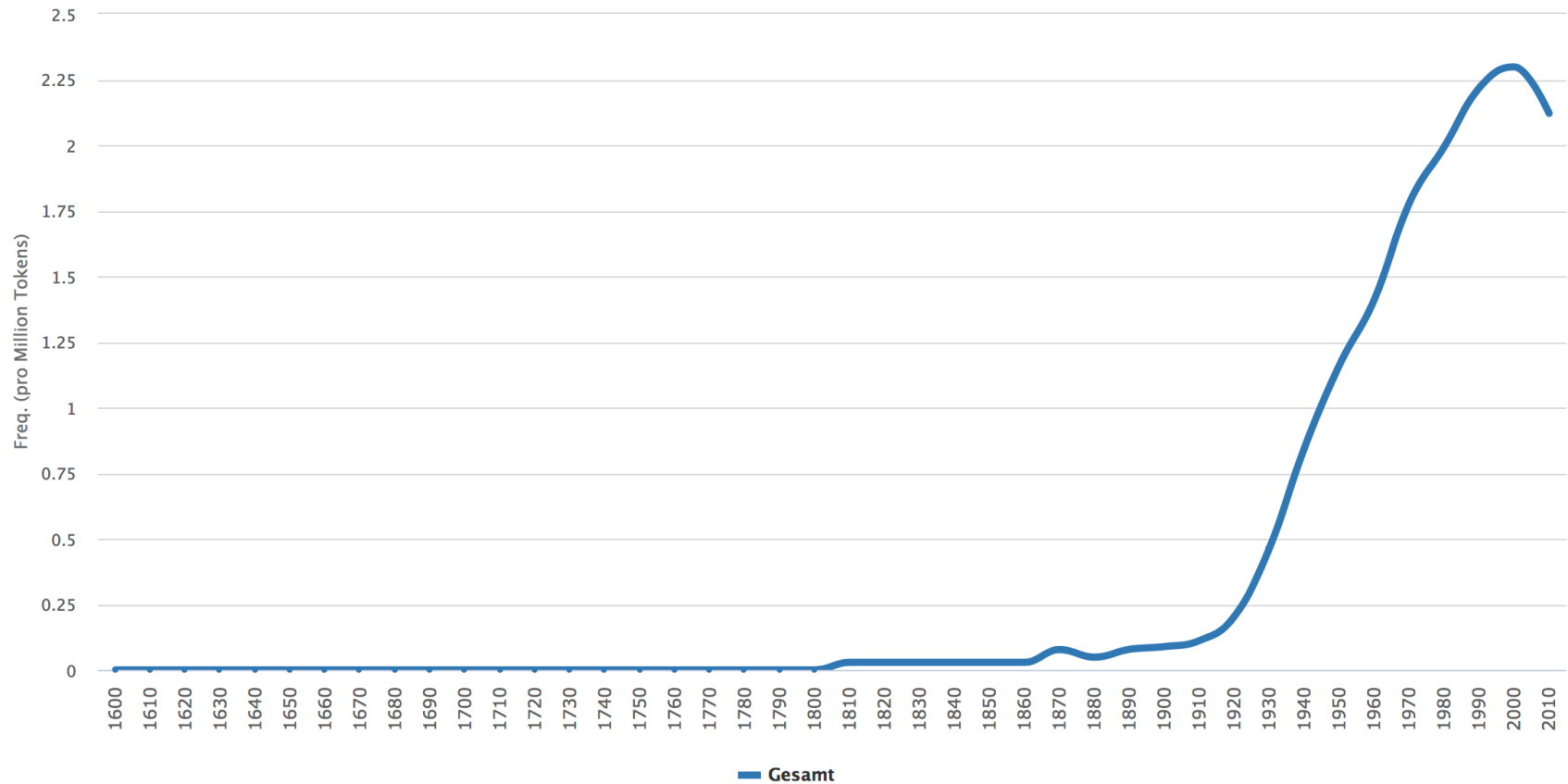
# *Diphthong /ei/ project*

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- > Results (Monophthongisation)
  - Monophthongisation of stɛɪk(x) → ʃti:kx means full integration of the item into Bernese Swiss German
  - Chart shows first or second degree of integration according to Eisenberg (2011)

# Diphthong /ei/ project

Steak – Verlaufskurve





# *Diphthong /ei/ project*

- > Results (Monophthongisation)
  - Monophthongisation of stɛɪk(x) → ʃti:kx means full integration of the item into Bernese Swiss German
  - Chart shows first or second degree of integration according to Eisenberg (2011)
  - Probleme:
    - Why present in middle age group? Uncertain? More open towards the full integration of an Anglicism?

# *Diphthong /ei/ project*

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- > Next steps
  - Analysis of sociolinguistic data
  - Closer look to monophthongisation necessary
  - Material Peter Dalcher



an Sheldon.

Vielen Dank  
für die  
Aufmerksam-  
keit!